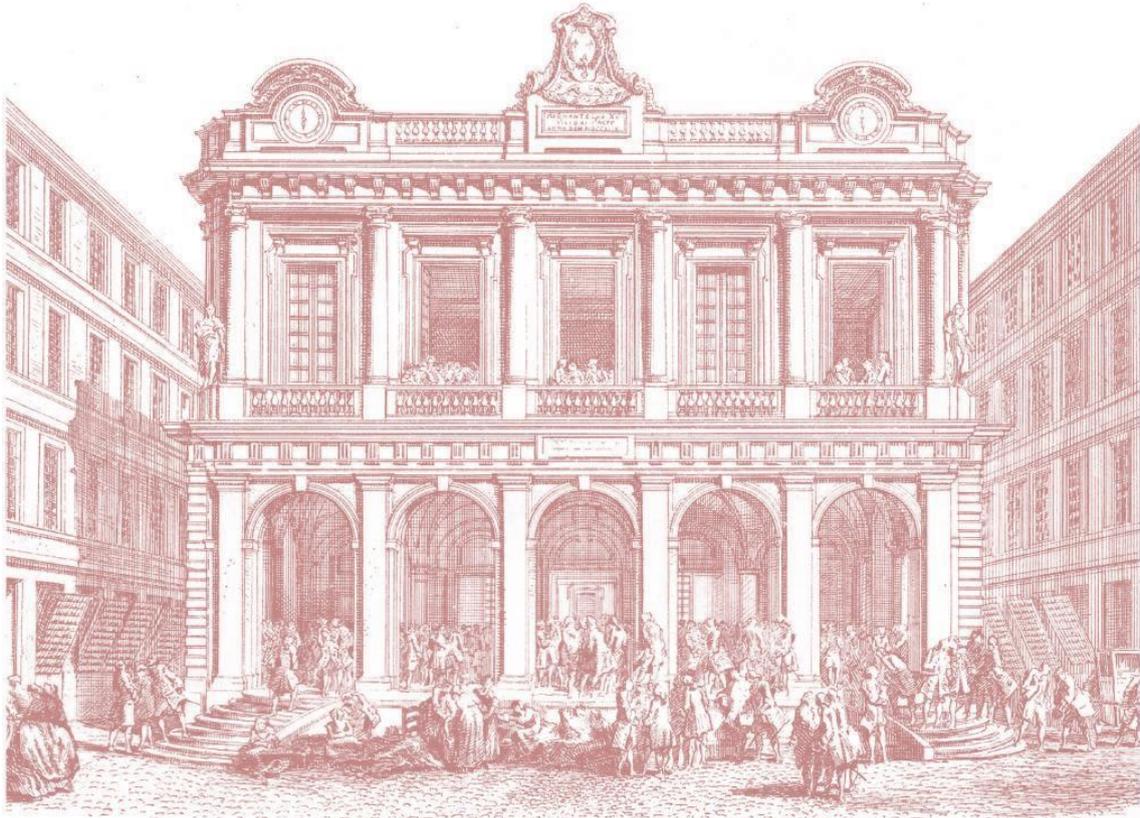


THE CHANGE CHURCH

"OLD LYON" DISTRICT



Bourse ou Loge des Changes à Lyon.

Stock Exchange or Lyon Change Lodge

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH OF FRANCE

WEST LYON CHANGE PARISH

www.templeduchange.fr

1653: First Change Lodge

1631: Several bourgeois and merchants offer to contribute financially for the construction of *low lodges where they could conveniently confer and trade together*. The architect Simon Goudet is brought from Paris.

1641: The undertakings are very advanced, but the completion is delayed because of a contractor's death. There will be another financial appeal for the endeavors in 1653. The analysis of Lyon's archives and plans made by Daniel Ternois shows that the Lodge is then made up of a gallery of four spans in front and two spans on the north and south sides. The entrance is made in the two small sides and the Lodge is adjoined on the south side to some dilapidated houses. This small and sober classical building which rapidly proves to be insufficient for the needs of the merchants, will last for a century.

The first lodge built on the site of the Round House, as it appears on a 1658 map of Lyon.



1700: Robert de Cotte, called to Lyon to build the equestrian statue of Louis XIV, proposes to install it on the Place du Change by demolishing the old lodge and rebuilding it slightly further north. These projects failed: Place Bellecour will be chosen in 1711.

1734: The merchants petition the Consulate, complaining about the dilapidated state and the narrowness of the Lodge. They recommend building a bigger one, either in the same place, or close to it "*on the place du Government with a large perron on the river, which would form a pleasant decoration on all sides (...) One would open up a public library in a large nave on the top...*". The Consulate acquires the Hotel du Government with the aim of building a Lodge with a library above it. But the city finances will never allow the implementation of this project.

1750: new Lodge

1747: The governor accepts the construction of a new lodge at the old location, while limiting the expense, "*all in accordance with the plans and estimates which had been drawn up by Master Soufflot*." The work is entrusted to Jean-Baptiste Roche, architect presented by Soufflot and under his guarantee. Soufflot provides plans and elevations, establishes quotes, but it is Roche who conducts the work. The engraving by Bellicard is captioned: "*Lyon Change lodge executed under the supervision of J.G. Soufflot and Srs. Roche in 1749.*" The construction of the lodge takes just two years.

*The Change Lodge from 1750
(Model seen at the Gadagne Museum).*



Two curved stoops of seven steps are created at the corners of the terrace. *The old buildings at the rear are demolished, the foundations are redone, and the great hall rebuilt on a new rectangular plan.* Its vault is "imperial style": it rests on large pillars, two which contain spiral staircases allowing access to the upper floor room that opens on the facade. From the peristyle one enters the great hall through three doors.

1769: We note that *"the labors on the Change lodge seem to have been only a kind of embellishment or reconstruction of the one that existed before and to which an arcade on the façade would have been added"*. The works isolated the building previously adjoining the houses to the south, widened the north street (now called rue de la Loge) by destroying some houses. The houses opposite the building are not demolished, the square is not enlarged nor opened on the Saône as De Cotte had recommended. The right arcade and the two arcades returning to the north are demolished.

Two arcades instead of one are rebuilt on the facade and two arcades returning to the north. The three arcades on the left are conserved. The ground floor is thus enlarged (five spans instead of four).

A fourth one opens at the back on Gadagne Street. The room receives an abundance of light through 17 windows on two floors. The great hall vault occupies the whole height; upstairs, in addition to the room above the peristyle, there is a modest caretaker's apartment. Above the ground floor, the facade is completely redone. It was planned to install statues on the side corners (Europe and Asia by Perrache son and America by Chabry son). The Change institution continues until the Revolution. During the Revolution trade was interrupted, and the Lodge was closed.

1800: The Lodge, still vacant, becomes for a time an inn. A man named Joly rents it and puts a sign on it: *"Hotel du change. We lodge on foot and on horseback"*.

1803: The Change Lodge becomes a protestant church

Asked to provide the Lyon Protestant Consistory with a place of worship, the city cedes the Change Lodge on 28 Pluviôse, Year XI (February 17, 1803). It is said that the Protestants were offered a choice between this building and the Cordeliers church (Saint Bonaventure), which was abandoned and used as a feed barn. This dilapidated church, too big, seems to not be very advantageous: The Protestants prefer the Change Lodge. The expenses for cleaning and repairs are covered by a subscription and a sum of 10 000 pounds voted by the City Council.

The room dedicated to worship includes only the part situated under the dome, without the gallery. A pulpit stands against the south side wall with a few seats reserved at its foot for the members of the Consistory and the Diaconate. Benches are placed in front of the pulpit extending to the opposite wall. The worship space is entered through two small doors pierced in the east wall (side of the Square). The large opening in the middle does not yet exist; there is also a small door on Gadagne Street. On the ground floor there is a sacristy on the left as you enter, with the caretaker's quarters above it; on the right there are two rooms, forming with two other rooms above them the pastor's quarters. On the first floor is a school for boys and girls in two vast rooms. And, finally, under the attic are a covered playground, a cloakroom, and a library.

1822: The pulpit is moved and installed on the west side (Gadagne Street side, facing the entrance) and raised, with access stairs. Benches are installed facing the new pulpit. But the capacity of the temple is no longer in keeping with the number of protestants in the city. The Consistory has a hemicycle gallery built to accommodate the organ in the central part of the church, as well as galleries for the public. The whole is supported by twelve columns. The access to these galleries is made by two circular wooden staircases. Expense: 10 500 pounds, covered by the Municipal Council, the Consistory and King Louis XVIII for 3 000 pounds.

1856: New modifications because it is necessary to enlarge the place of worship. The adopted solution consists of:

- removing the separation between the large room and the peristyle to enlarge the worship space up to the facade.
- enclosing the church by the 5 current doors,
- building a new, wider and higher gallery, supported by corner columns. The gallery is accessed by two circular staircases that lead to the first floor.



About 440 seats are gained. The school on the first floor is removed, leaving a large room for meetings which, by opening large doors to the gallery, increases the capacity of the temple to 1200 seats!

From 1860 the Consistory, noting that the building's capacity is again insufficient, decides to build the Great Temple (**1884**) with 1400 seats. From that moment on, the Change church is no longer consistorial but parochial. (Let us note in passing that the church's seating capacity today is limited, for safety reasons, to 350 seats, according to standards which have nothing to do with those of 1856!)

1977: Removal of the pulpit to ground level, removal of the council seats. Installation of the marble table near the entrance.

2014-2015: A new restoration of the façade is carried out.

Bibliographical Excerpts:

Daniel Ternois. *La loge du Change. L'œuvre de Soufflot à Lyon : Études et documents, 1980, Presses universitaires de Lyon, p. 77-98.* Blez, fils. Le centenaire du temple de la Place du Change. Lyon: Impr. Rey, 1903, p.13-24.

Protestants in Lyon

As early as the second century, a Christian community is created in Lyon.

177: Trial and martyrdom of the first Christians of Gaul, Blandine being the best known.

Protestants recognize a forerunner in Pierre Valdo (**late 12th- early 13th century**). This rich Lyon merchant decides to abandon all his property to the poor and preaches poverty to fellow citizens, praying and reading the Scriptures in the language of the day. Pierre Valdo is a figure who is related to major movements of evangelical poverty, such as that of Francis of Assisi.

There is no trace of the Reform in Lyon before **1520-1525**, date which signals the importation of "heretical books". New ideas appear only in 1524 (in Paris in 1521), with the Lenten sermons preached in Sainte-Croix church, next to Saint John church.

Early 1540: Three "heretics" are burned in Lyon, but we know nothing about them...

1546: The first pastor present in Lyon is Pierre Fourneret, with about fifty followers.

1552: Five pastors from Lausanne and Geneva return to southwestern France; betrayed, they are arrested in Lyon and executed in May 1553 at Les Terreaux.

In Lyon, the Reformation takes on a special character. The common classes and the world of printers adhere first. Following them, they lead some notable bourgeois families including some Consuls, who will become the leaders of the "Protestant Party".

From 1559, the situation becomes tense, incidents are multiplying. At night from April 29 to 30, 1562, it is "the protestant coup de force". The city will be administered for 13 months by 12 Protestant consuls.

June 1563: Lyon ends up submitting to the King's authority.

However, on **August 10, 1563**, all French Protestantism is present in Lyon

for the 4th National Synod. Protestants are then authorized to build three churches: one in Bourneuf ("Fleur de Lys church"), one in the Terreaux on *the ditches of the Lantern* (where in 1991 were found the remains of buried bodies near the church), and one on the Paradise land (Establerie Street) known thanks to Jean-Jacques Périssin's painting exhibited at the International Reformation Museum in Geneva (below).



Intolerance

Describing cohabitation as "difficult" between Catholics and Protestants is an understatement...

February 1567: Sacking of the Terreaux Church, then the "Catholic coup de force" on St. Michael's Day, even before the beginning of the second war of religion. Protestants are registered, some expelled, and they no longer have the right to freely worship in the City.

August 1572: The "Lyon Vespers" cause a few hundred victims. The most famous are the pastor Jacques Langlois, in Lyon since 1563, murdered on the Saône bridge and thrown into the river, as well as Claude Goudimel, harmonizer of Psalms of the Reformation.

Protestant worship is banned in Lyon. Protestants must go to the town of Oullins, then to Saint Romain au Mont d'Or, whose church will be destroyed in 1686 pursuant to the Edict of 1685 (Revocation of the Edict of Nantes).

1787: The Edict of Tolerance gives civil status to protestants 2 years before the Revolution. The Lyon Protestant Community barely has time to appreciate this new situation when the freedom of conscience is given to it in 1789, with article 10 of the **Declaration of Human Rights**, then freedom of worship is finally granted, in 1791.

1803: The Change Lodge is allocated to the Reformed church of Lyon (see page 5).

XIX Century: Protestant churches of diverse sensitivities

The Lyon Reformed Church is concordatory: the pastors are paid by the State.

1832: Pastor Adolphe Monod, in breaking with the Reformed Church, founds the Evangelical Church of Lyon, installed on Thiaffait Passageway, where hospitality is given to the Germans to celebrate worship in their language. It is the origin of the Lyon Lutheran Church, established since 1892, Fenelon street. Similarly, the English enjoy this hospitality. This is the beginning of the Lyon Anglican Church.

1857: The Evangelical Church settles in the Lantern Street chapel.

Important achievements

1825: Birth of ***the Protestant Provident and Mutual Assistance Society*** (the first in France).

1830: Creation of the Lyon Protestant Popular Library, which can still be visited today on the premises of the Grand Temple, Augagneur quay. The Protestant Infirmary appears on Fantasques Street, beginning in **1844**, and is installed in the Charteux Court (Avenue Général Giraud) in 1884. Retirement homes for seniors are also opened: Maison Marguerite Déthel and Maison Albert Morlot.

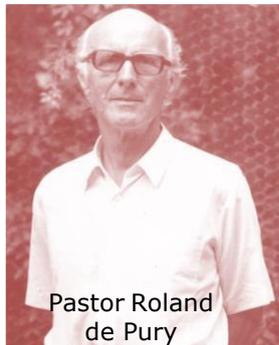
1884: Inauguration of the "New Temple" (Augagneur quay) by the pastor Jules Aeschmann father. The project is designed by Lyon-based architect Gaspard André. He integrates the protestant schools in the building, which today is 6, Liberty Avenue.

Protestants in Lyon in the XX Century

1905: In application of the Law of Separation of Church and State, religious associations are founded in Lyon in 1906, to which the State allocates the churches. The Change Church remains the property of the City of Lyon.

1938: At the Synod held at the Change church, the French Reformed Church regains a certain unity. The Lyon Reformed Church and the Evangelical Church join the new Church.

Between 1940-45, Protestants take an active part in the resistance movements. In July 1940, pastors, by their preaching, mark their refusal of Petain's regime and denounce the antisemitic laws. Roland de Pury, pastor of the Reformed church on Lantern Street in the Terreaux, is arrested by the Gestapo as he was about to begin the Pentecost service. His transfer - in pastoral dress - and then his detention, have a strong impact.



Lyon Protestants and youth movements (Scouts, Unionists, Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) are not left out: fake cards, the fight against the S.T.O. (Compulsory Work Service) support to the maquis (French underground forces against the Nazis) on the Chambon-sur-Lignon plateau, help to the Jews attempting to join Switzerland.

The church on Victor Augagneur quay, with its double entrance on Liberty Avenue, is used as a refuge for Jewish families.

In August 1942, The Secret Army establishes its headquarters and the resistance headquarters there.

After 1945, Protestantism experiences a new period of expansion, with the establishment of new churches and a greater openness to social issues. The Reformed Church is established in Villeurbanne, Montchat, Bron, St Fons, Oullins, la Guillotière, Vaise then Tassin... Mutual aid organizations are developing. A Protestant Home of the Popular Mission is created in La Duchère neighborhood. The Pierre Valdo center (at Point du Jour) finds its vocation in the reception of refugees.

Other churches develop: the Baptist Church (1942) on Massena Street, then on Vitton Avenue. The Evangelical Free Church on Louis Street, the Evangelical Revival Church in Villeurbanne in 1958, the gypsy mission... The Salvation Army fulfills its mission in social and witness actions.

From **1980,** The Protestant churches strengthen their links within the framework of the French Protestant Federation and set up common actions: Pastoral work, hospital, or prison chaplaincies...

At the same time, contacts are more frequent with the Catholic Church and other Christian churches: dialogues, ceremonies and ecumenical movements are multiplying.

Protestants are associated with French Christian Radio (R.C.F., initially Radio Fourvière) from its origins in 1982. The Lyon Reformed Church is a member of CREL, (Committee of Lyon Christian Churches) along with Orthodox, Catholic, Armenian, Baptist, and Anglican churches in Lyon. Inter-religious dialogue and fraternal relations, until then essentially turned towards Judaism, are developing with representatives of Islam.

October 1, 1995: A Forum organized by the churches of the French Protestant Federation is an unexpected success.

In 1998, on the 400th anniversary of the Edict of Nantes, 40 churches, organizations and movements of the Protestant Federation organize a regional forum: "Conviction and tolerance". The service presided over by Pastor Michel Bertrand gathers 4000 participants.

Protestants in the XXI Century

In 2000, Lyon hosts the French Reformed Church National Synod. At the Lyon Congress Hall, the E.R.F. (French Reformed Church) launches its initiative "**Debate 2000 -- 2000 debates**" with 3,000 participants from across France and guests from several countries: an invitation to debate social issues, the visibility of Christian witness in the City; organization of an evening festival with ten events in the city center. Organization, in partnership with the Catholic University, round table discussions on secularism, religious liberty, the genocidal temptation...

Following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 in the U.S.A., the Lyon Reformed Church and the Catholic Church initiate an interfaith celebration at St. John's Cathedral in a call for peace.

2003: Proclaimed "**Year of the Bible**" by European Protestants. A Bible Exposition and celebration of the church's bicentennial takes place at the Change church.

2007: The Change parish launches a large public theatrical production: "**Bible in Light**".

2009: To celebrate the 500th anniversary of Jean's Calvin's birth, the Lyon Municipal Archives creates an exhibition entitled

"Lyon 1562 - Protestant Capital",

in partnership with the Reformed Church and the French Protestant Federation.



October 2012: After a year of renovation work and upgrading, the Great Temple is inaugurated during the City worship service.

May 2013: sees the culmination of a process of union, following shared long-term debates, synodal decisions, theological, juridical, and economic discussions in all French parishes...The Lyon Reformed and Lutheran churches are part of this process in the same way as all the other local parishes in France. The Reformed and Lutheran Churches of France proclaim their union, in Lyon, during a common synod under the new name of: **United Protestant Church of France.**



The Change church organ

In **1803**, One of the first concerns of the reformed consistory is to install an organ in the new church. The decision is taken on October 11, 1803 (18 Vendémiaire Year XII) and accomplished without delay. During the official inauguration at the church on November 13 of the same year (21 Brumaire Year XII) " *on the arrival of the Prefect, the organ was touched*". The instrument was delivered by the factor Lebègue for the sum of 3,200 pounds collected by subscription.

1858: The present organ is built by the factors Hippolyte Caesar Beaucourt and Voegeli, in a plastered and painted fir tree casing « «imitation walnut" with 8 stops on a keyboard of 54 notes and an 18-note pedalboard.

1887: Hugues Beaucourt installs a 42-note Swell division with three stops.

1956: Athanase Dunand installs a pneumatic extension on Bourdon 16 of the great organ to serve the 30 notes pedal on Bourdon 16 and 8 and completes the first octave of the stops.

1986: The instrument is restored by the factors Jean Deloye (Audelange, Jura) for the mechanical part and G. Schmid (Germany) for harmonization. The work is inaugurated on Monday June 2, 1986 by Michel Chapuis.

Current composition

Great Organ (54 n. C-f")	
Principal	8
Bourdon	8
Octave	4
Gemshorn	4
Nazard, mixture,	4'octave
Small flute	2
Full Play	II to IV
Trumpet	8
Narrative (42 n. C-f")	
Bourdon	8
Provider	4
Nazard, mixture	4'octave
Flute	2
Tierce	1 3/5
Bassoon-Oboe	8
Pedal (30 n. C-f)	
Bourdon	16
Flute	8
Flute	4

Great-to-pedal, Swell-to-Pedal 4', Swell-to-Great coupler.

For more information, read "L'orgue du Temple du Change" in "Les Orgues de Lyon » - *Orgues du département du Rhône* " Tome 1. ARDIM, by Pierre Marie and Michelle Guéritey, 1992.

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH OF FRANCE

West Lyon Parish – Change

Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome

Equipped "children's" area (except school vacations)

Handicapped access (contact reception)

Open house on Saturday afternoon



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